REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 6, 7, and 12 are now pending in the application, Claim 1 being independent and having been amended. Claims 2-5 and 8-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 12 is newly-presented herein.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that the foreign priority issues have been resolved. However, the Office Action Summary indicates that both "All" and "None of" the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. It is respectfully requested that this indication be resolved in the next Office Action such that only "All" is checked. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,048,353 (Waller et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,000,792 (Koizumi et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to a discharging apparatus having a discharge head in which a plurality of discharge nozzles are arranged to discharge liquids supplied from supply ports through discharge ports, and formed such that some of the plurality of discharge nozzles discharge liquids having different liquid compositions. The apparatus includes joint members and a plurality of

pumps. The joint members are equal in number to a number of the discharge nozzles and are arranged to face all discharge nozzles. Each joint member operates to cover either the supply port or discharge port when removing the liquid in a discharge nozzle. The plurality of pumps are selectively connected to the joint members through connecting members and remove the liquid in each of the discharge nozzles by applying a pressure difference between the supply port and discharge port of each discharge nozzle facing the connected joint member. Different pumps are connected to the joint members which are arranged to face the discharge nozzles discharging liquids having different liquid compositions. The liquids removed from the discharge nozzles through the joint members connected to the pumps are filtrated and deaerated, and liquid having the same liquid composition is accumulated together in a liquid collection container to be reused.

Waller et al. is directed to a printhead maintenance system that can recycle ink. Ink spit from printhead 28 flows down walls of a print head seal member 60 and through a filter 82 into a main reservoir 30. The ink spit from the printhead is then mixed with ink already in the reservoir and recycled. Waller et al. notes that it may be necessary in some circumstances to include an optional pump and appropriate valves to assist with delivery of ink through conduits from the main supply reservoirs to associated pens.

However, Waller et al. does not disclose or suggest at least joint members equal in number to a number of discharge nozzles and being arranged to face all discharge nozzles, as well as a plurality of pumps for being selectively connected to the joint

members, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor does Waller et al. disclose or suggest that different pumps are connected to the joint members which are arranged to face the discharge nozzles discharging liquids having different liquid compositions, and that liquids removed from discharge nozzles through the joint members connected to the pumps are filtrated and deaerated, and liquid having the same liquid composition is accumulated together in a liquid collection container to be reused, as also recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Waller et al. fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Koizumi et al. was cited for teaching a filter that can remove fine dust particles and air bubbles. However, Koizumi et al. is not believed to remedy the deficiencies of Waller et al. noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejection are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 6, 7 and 12 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in the independent claim. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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